

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 3, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

The specification is amended to correct an informality. Claims 1-10 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. New claim 11 is added. No new matter is added. Claims 1-11 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action objected to the specification because of informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is amended to correct all known typographical informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for being indefinite.

The Office Action asserted that the phrase "plug-in" unit is unclear because it is not defined in the specification. However, the phrase "plug-in" unit is well-known in the art as a hardware or software module that adds a specific feature or service to a larger system. As recited in claims 1 and 7, the unit computer of the cross-connection part is disposed on a different plug-in unit than the nearest terminal point of the cross-connection it is using for message traffic. Various supporting definitions found in technical dictionaries, and the meaning in the present application is known to a person of

skill in the art. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the one skilled in the art would recognize that the plug-in unit recited in claim 1 and 7 adds a specific feature or service to the system as recited in claim 1 and the method of claim 7.

The Office Action also asserted that it is unclear what is meant by the phrase “nearest terminal point of the cross-connection.” Applicant respectfully submits that a “terminal point” is a known in the art as a point of connection. As stated in the specification on page 9, the terminal point of a cross-connection is indicated by “X” and the “nearest terminal point” is the terminal point which is closest to the cross-connection part unit computer Cr. This indicates that the nearest terminal point is the one connected to the middle unit computer Cr in the cross-connection part.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-10 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

As stated above, new claim 11 is added. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-11 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by

telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DEB', is written over a horizontal line.

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